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NORTH KESTEVEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1947

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NORTH KESTEVEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector for 1947

Chairman : Mr. W. E. Young, Branston.
Vice-Chairman : Mr. G. W. Hutson, North Hykeham, Lincoln.
Treasurer : National Provincial Bank Limited, Lincoln.
Medical Officer of Health : Dr. W. Sharrard, The Avenue, Lincoln.
Clerk & Chief Financial Officer : Mr. F. Foster,
Deputy Clerk : Mr. William Epton, Solicitor, Lincoln.

Rating and Valuation Officer : Mr. A. Elkington,
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector : Mr. J. Chadwick,
Assistant Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector : Mr. J. K. M. Willis.

Council Offices : 31 Clasketgate, Lincoln, *Telephone No.* 8617.
Pumping Station, Waneham Bridge, Metheringham. *Telephone No.* 230.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman act as *ex-officio* members of all Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council (except the Rating Committee).

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen.

As your Medical Officer of Health, I beg to lay before you my report of the Health and Sanitary conditions of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1947.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres)	102,178
Population, 1946	22,170
1947	22,780
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1921	3,825
– – – 1946	6,348
– – – 1947	6,478
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1921 ...	4,301
– – – – 1931 ...	4,931
Rateable Value (31st December, 1947)	£105,207
Sum represented by a penny rate	£430

The usual pursuits were carried on in the District, as also Crop-drying, Flax manufacture and Pest Control, and a large Malleable Iron Works at North Hykeham.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births—Legitimate	447	243	204	Birth Rate 20.76 (20.16)
Illegitimate	26	14	12	
Still Births—Legitimate	17	8	9	Rate per 1,000
Illegitimate	2	0	2	Total Births 40.2
Deaths	279	152	127	Death Rate 12.2
Number of women dying in, or inconsequence of, childbirth				from sepsis 0 from other causes 1

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births :—Total 27.5.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhæa (under 2 years of age)	0
Diphtheria	0

Pneumonia was accountable for 3.9% of the deaths. Cancer 8.9%. (17.6%—1946)

Heart Disease 30.1. Tuberculosis, respiratory, 2.1%. Influenza, .7%.

Infantile mortality is well below that for England and Wales.

GENERAL PROVISIONS of the HEALTH SERVICES in the AREA

These are substantially the same as in the year previous.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Salvage—The following has been collected and disposed of by the Council during the year under the control of your Sanitary Inspector :—

	TONS	CWTS.	QRS.
Paper	13	9	0
Textiles	—	—	—
Bones	—	6	2
Iron and other Metal	—	—	—
Total Weight	13	15	2

Total value, £67 12s. 2d.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Visits to Slaughterhouses	510
Horses inspected	1038
Beasts inspected	3
Sheep inspected	2
Pigs inspected	1
Food Preparing Premises	40
Drains Tested	104
Housing Inspection	81
Inspections on Complaint	171
Inspections *re* Nuisances	83
Other Inspections under Public Health Act	156
Cowsheds, dairies and Milkshops	32
Infectious Diseases	27
Houses Disinfected	15
Water Samples taken	40
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	3
Sewer Dykes	60
Visits *re* Water Supplies	321
Visits to Council Houses	304
Sewage Works	44
Houses in Course of Erection	950
Scavenging	76
Rural Housing Survey (Houses Inspected)	167
Civil Building Control	349
War Damage	12
Visits *re* Conversion of Military Premises	22
Visits to Housing Sites	167
Visits *re* Laying of New Sewers	114

Food Condemned

	tons	cwts	qrs.	lbs.
Beef	—	11	1	23
Horseflesh	6	12	—	—
Horseflesh Offals	—	10	1	0
Chestnuts	1	7	—	—
Tinned Jam	—	1	3	18
Tinned Marmalade	—	—	—	58½
Other Tinned Foods	—	—	—	34

Housing Generally

POST WAR SCHEMES—Tenders have been let for the erection of 205 houses, 73 of which are completed and 62 in course of erection.

74 houses have been completed by private builders and 12 are in course of erection.

60 Prefabricated Bungalows have been erected to the end of the year.

Water Supply

The water scheme commenced in 1941, has now been completed. The scheme comprises new deep boreholes, pump houses and station, and duplication of water mains.

A further scheme has been approved by the Ministry, and tenders will shortly be advertised for extensions to the Parishes of Thorpe, Whisby, Doddington and North Scarle (not now supplied by a mains supply) and to the improvement of services in existing parishes.

Samples of water are regularly taken by your officers and any suspicion as to its purity is immediately reported to me. During the past year, the waters have been of a high standard of purity.

Detailed Water Supply

	Direct Services		*Pillar Fountains*	
	No. of Properties served	*Popl'n served*	*No. of Properties served*	*Popl'n served*
Auborn, Haddington and South Hykeham	115	394	24	82
Bassingham	78	270	40	136
Beckingham	41	140	28	97
Boothby Graffoe	35	119	—	—
Bracebridge Heath	370	1180	—	—
Branston and Mere	242	840	116	392
Brant Broughton and Stragglethorpe	79	272	60	208
Canwick	48	165	—	—
Carlton-le-Moorland	26	86	24	82
Coleby	36	129	32	110
Doddington and Whisby	—	—	—	—
Dunston	52	179	60	208
Eagle and Swinthorpe	—	—	—	—
Harmston	27	90	36	123
Heighington	146	495	60	208

	Direct Services		Pillar Fountains	
	No. of Properties served	*Popl'n served*	*No. of Properties served*	*Popl'n served*
Leadenham...	76	258	6	24
Metheringham	178	610	136	470
Navenby (includes Skinnand)	94	322	56	193
Nocton	29	100	24	82
North Hykeham	828	2679	—	—
North Scarle	—	—	—	—
Norton Disney	11	39	12	41
Potterhanworth	48	163	24	82
Skellingthorpe	211	730	—	—
Stapleford	6	22	24	84
Swinderby	39	135	—	—
Thorpe-on-the-Hill (includes Morton)	2	7	—	—
Thurlby	11	40	6	24
Waddington	257	890	120	410
Washingborough ...	125	430	88	310
Welbourn	82	279	32	110
Wellingore	53	181	40	138

Samples taken from Public Supplies in 1947

Nature of sample	*Satisfactory*	*Unsatisfactory*	TOTAL
Chemical	—	—	—
Bacteriological	39	5	44

Note—Of the five unsatisfactory samples, three were taken from the supply to Potterhanworth Village and two from the supply to Boothby Graffoe Village. All the samples taken from the Regional supply were satisfactory.

Scavenging

Eight parishes are scavenged by Contract and seven by direct labour.

It was hoped that the scheme prepared by your Inspector for scavenging the whole of the area would have been well on its way by now. Two 8 cubic and one 10 cubic capacity vehicles were ordered in April, 1946, but we are still awaiting delivery.

New Sewage Schemes

During the year (1947) work was commenced on a temporary sewage disposal scheme to serve the Council's housing site in Meadow Lane, North Hykeham. 485 yards of 9 inch sewer and 793 yards of 6 inch sewer were laid. During the year work was commenced on the disposal plant which will ultimately serve 87 permanent houses and 15 prefabricated bungalows.

(*Note*—At the time of writing, August, 1948, this plant has been completed and is operating satisfactorily).

Also, during the year, work was commenced on a temporary sewage disposal scheme to serve 46 permanent houses and 15 prefabricated bungalows on the Council's housing site at Brantson. 97 yards of 9 inch sewer were laid and work commenced on the disposal works.

Sewerage

As mentioned in my last Report Schemes are being prepared for all the Parishes on a long term policy, and this is as far as we have got. The Ministry has held a public enquiry for the North Hykeham and Waddington Schemes and with modifications, approved by them.

Public Health Act and Housing Act, 1936

46 Preliminary Notices have been served during the year. 47 Statutory Notices have been served and 41 have been complied with by the Owners.

The Council have carried out work in default of Owners to the amount of £37 13s. 11d.

3332 inspections have been made in the District by your Sanitary Inspectors during the year.

Tuberculosis (New Cases in 1947)

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary	
Totals	M.	F.		M.	F.
Total	15	4	...	4	2
Deaths	5	1	...	1	2

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

I. Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947.

Age at 31.12.47 ...	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total
i.e. Born in Year ...	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1938-1943	1933-1937	under 15
Number Immunised								
North Kesteven R.D.C.	3	121	188	248	210	1239	1146	3155
Estimated mid-year population ...			2109			3051		5160

II. Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths in Relation to Immunisation.

No. Cases notified — None under 16 years

Deaths — None

DISEASES	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	TOTAL DEATHS
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	5	2	—
Diphtheria	9	8	—
Enteric Fever	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	5	—	11
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Acute Polio-Myelitis	5	3	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Measles	163	—	—
Whooping Cough	12	—	1
Dysentary	1	1	—
Malaria (R)	—	—	—

GENERAL REMARKS

Diphtheria cases totalled 9, of these 3 were at Bracebridge Hospital and 2 at Harmston Colony. The ages varied between 16 and 40 years. Thus there were none in the children's age groups and there were no deaths ; the whole thing being a tribute to the efficiency of Immunisation in protecting the young.

Housing is still a major problem. The numbers of people on our lists as requiring houses seems fantastic, and the rate we are able to produce houses, through no fault of our own, is as fantastically slow. The sum total of unhappiness and even broken marriages, due to this cause alone is hard to assess but is undoubtedly very great. We built 547 Council Houses pre-war, 16 war-period agricultural houses, 40 post-war permanent and 60 post-war prefabricated houses. We also produced 9 post-war temporary dwellings and there were 7 requisitioned properties. Our record is good, our intentions far better, our hope—deferred.

Albeit the statistical picture, as opposed to the unassessable human-problem one, is good. Despite shortages of all conceivable articles of food, clothing and comfort, there has been increase in birth rate, decrease in infantile mortality and in maternal mortality over childbirth. The latter began definitely to improve after almost a century of stability in the year 1935, due probably to improvement of confinement technique in the wearing of masks and control of infective processes. By 1940, a profound change due to the action of the sulphonamide sepsis controlling drugs was apparent and this was further enhanced by 1945, by the general use of penicillin. Thus generally speaking for every six women who died from sepsis in 1934, only three died in 1937, and only one in 1945. The aforementioned drugs, plus the care and devotion of general practitioners, midwives, etc., have produced a minor miracle, though politicians are prone to claim a great deal of the credit.

Now as we are are all living much longer and more healthy lives we must consider the problems of housing and the like as it affects older people.

Sewage disposal is still a major difficulty in a country district. North Hykeham is still a suppliant.

Our water supply system is growing apace and is a matter for great pride.

We must see to it that all the amenities of town-life are supplied to our country-side in order that a flourishing and contented agriculture may provide the sustenance for our country.

I must end once more with my thanks to Mr. Chadwick, Mr. Willis and all the other members of the staff for continued good work and patience.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. SHARRARD

APPENDIX I.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M	F
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...		
2 Cerebro-spinal fever		
3 Scarlet fever ...		
4 Whooping cough ...		1
5 Diphtheria		
6 Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	5	1
7 Other tuberculosis diseases	1	2
8 Syphilis		
9 Influenza	2	
10 Measles		
11 Ante Polio-Myelitis		
12 Ac. Inf. Encephalitis		
13 Cancer of bucc. cavity and uterus	2	1
14 Cancer—Stomach & duodenum	1	3
15 Breast		5
16 All others	13	8
17 Diabetes	1	3
18 Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	19	22
19 Heart disease ...	46	38
20 Other circulatory diseases	3	5
21 Bronchitis	6	9
22 Pneumonia (all forms)	8	3
23 Other respiratory diseases	2	1
24 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodeum	2	
25 Diarrhœa, etc (under 2 years)		
26 Appendicitis ...		
27 Other digestive diseases		3
28 Acute and chronic nephritis	3	2
29 Puerperal sepsis ...		
30 Other maternal causes		1
31 Premature birth ...	4	1
32 Congenital malformations, etc. ...	2	5
33 Suicide	1	
34 Road Traffic Accident	4	
35 Other violence ...	2	1
36 All other causes ...	25	12
All causes	152	127

	M.	F.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—Total ...	6	7
Legitimate	5	7
Illegitimate	1	
Live Births—	M.	F.
Total	257	216
Legitimate	243	204
Illegitimate	14	12
Stillbirths—Total	8	11
Legitimate	8	9
Illegitimate	–	2
Population		22,780

APPENDIX II

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1947.

—	Birth Rate per 1,000 Total population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population								Rate per live 1,000 Births	
	Live Births	Still-births	All Causes	Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	20.5	.50	12	0.00	0.00	.01	0.00	.02	.01	.09	5.8	41
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	23.3	.62	13	0.00	0.00	.02	.00	.03	.01	.09	8	47
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	22.2	.54	11.9	0.00	0.00	.02	.00	.02	.01	.08	3.7	36
London	22.7	.49	12.8	0.00	0.00	.01	.00	.02	.01	.08	4.8	37
NORTH KESTEVEN	20.76	.83	12.2	0.00	0.00	.00	0.00	.044	0.00	.088	0	27.5